

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
February 20, 2004

The Domestic Relations Committee met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, February 20, 2004 from 10:30 – 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. David Bonfiglio, Thomas J. Felts, Roderick D. McGillivray, Robyn L. Moberly, Richard G. Striegel, and Michael P. Scopelitis, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Donna Bays, Chair, Family Law Section, ISBA; Lindsey Holloway, Division of State Court Administration; Nathan Davis, JTAC; and Alan Pyrz, Egov Systems.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes from January 23, 2004 were approved.
5. Child Support Guidelines.
 - a. Lindsey Holloway, Division of State Court Administration and Alan Pyrz, Egov Strategies displayed the draft Internet Child Support Guideline Calculator with short and long child support guideline (CSG) worksheet forms. The committee made the following suggested changes: (1) Use an * to denote required fields; (2) expand the case number field to accommodate a 16+ digit case number; (3) Use “Father, Mother, Both and Neither” in the box for determination of the parenting time credit; (4) Begin the short form with: In re:, Case No., Other file no., and delete the Date filed, County, Court, and Case Type spaces; (5) Include a method on each calculator to print a blank form; (6) Remove “qualifying” before the word “child”; (7) List all children on the Basic Child Support Obligation Worksheet (CSOW), even if there are more than 6, realizing this may cause the worksheet to print on more than one page; (8) Place gross income in the top of the column for Mother and Father on the CSOW; (9) Use the format on the worksheet for the Subsequent Child Multiplier; (10) Do not need to show the uninsured healthcare calculation at the bottom of the CSOW; (11) Place “X” in box for each adjustment in line 7 of the CSOW; (12) leave shading out of cells not used on worksheets; (13) Consistently name short and long forms; (14) Add citations to pop-up screens as time permits; (15) Do not use a glossary for terms in CSG; (16) Revise Section Two of the Post-Secondary Education Worksheet (PSEW) to indicate number of weeks home in the summer; (17) Place lines in for rows and columns in the PDF version of the CSG calculator worksheets; (18) Place sentence after line J. on the PSEW about placement on the CSOW; (19) Use paragraph as warning to seek legal counsel from the Pro Se website and add a sentence indicating the full CSG have complete information about the guidelines and another sentence warning all users support orders cannot be changed without a new court order; and (20) give acronym to the Parenting Time Credit Worksheet. Committee members agreed to review these changes and return any comments to Lindsey Holloway by Feb. 27.
 - b. Lindsey Holloway displayed a stand-alone child support calculator that runs on an Excel spreadsheet. The committee applauded her and Nathan Davis for their hard work on this project.

c. Committee members agreed the Parenting Time Credit Worksheet should be added to the website as a separate document.

6. Review of Annual Report for \$20.00 ADR fee. Jeffrey Bercovitz finalized revisions to the annual report on collection of the \$20.00 fee in counties with ADR plans. Committee members agreed to collect information on the amount of co-pays ordered under the plan. Members of the committee agreed to remove the Allen County Plan from the website as a sample.

7. Domestic Relations Benchbook. Committee members reviewed an outline for the Domestic Relations Benchbook and made changes. They agreed to update the Benchbook on a periodic basis. Judge Scopelitis agreed to distribute the outline and recommend sections for which individual members could volunteer to write. Jeffrey Bercovitz agreed to gather benchbooks from other jurisdictions for review at the next meeting.

8. Other business.

a. Donna Bays, Chair, Family and Juvenile Law Section, ISBA distributed a booklet containing the new child support guidelines and the parenting time guidelines.

b. Jeffrey Bercovitz distributed recent newspaper articles to committee members. He agreed to forward recent legislation to all members of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law